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Selected Speeches and News Releases

July 9 - July 16, 1987

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

USDA ANNOUNCES WEEKLY CATTLE SLAUGHTER, MEAT PURCHASES AND EXPORTS OF CATTLE UNDER THE DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, July 9—An estimated 6,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally inspected plants during the week ending June 20 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

This total includes all cows, heifers and calves identified as dairy animals designated for disposition in compliance with the program requirements.

The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1, 1986, through June 20, 1987, is an estimated 1,122,700 head.

The purchases of meat in addition to normal purchases are to help offset the effects of the DTP on the domestic meat market. Cumulative purchases through July 4 total 394,885,645 pounds.

Dairy cattle reported for export under the program for the period April 1, 1986, through July 4, 1987, totaled an estimated 59,262 head. Live cattle exports are in addition to meat purchase requirements.

Cattle Slaughtered, Meat Purchased and Cattle Exported under the Dairy Termination Program¹

Period Ending		Cattle Slaughtered (Number)	Planned Meat Purchases (Pounds)	Meat Purchased (Pounds)	Cattle Reported for Export (Number)
(1986)					
April	26	259,700 ²		21,808,896	
May	31	163,100		69,188,480	6,622
June	28	98,000		67,951,412	7,316
July	26	96,300		60,581,808	6,470
Aug.	30	120,100		56,778,000	10,672
Sept.	27	52,500		20,680,000	4,031
Oct.	25	43,200		788,500	4,032
Nov.	29	45,700		21,564,346	5,371
Dec.	26	43,000		27,399,960	3,474
(1987)					
Jan.	30	49,600		29,239,980	3,355
Feb.	27	39,800		159,984	2,225
March	27	35,900		359,964	1,487
April	24	25,300		359,843	1,090
May	30	29,500		79,992	1,689
June	6	7,700		2,040,500	141
	13	6,600		3,965,500	662
	20	6,700		1,232,000	410
	27			3,318,480	126
July	4			6,992,000	89
	11				
	18				
	25				
Total		1,122,700	347,600,000 ³	394,885,645	59,262

¹Includes all cows, heifers and calves under the DTP.

²Estimated for April 1 - April 26.

³Through July 31.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

**USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE
FOR UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, July 9—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 10, through 12:00 midnight Thursday, July 16.

Since the adjusted world price is above the loan repayment rate of 44 cents per pound for the base quality, no First Handler Cotton Certificates will be issued during this period. The adjusted world price will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. However, no coarse count adjustment will be applicable during the period because the adjustment is less than 1.00 cent per pound.

Based on data for the week ending July 9, the adjusted world price for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price	81.45
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	9.68
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.80
Average U.S. location53
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-12.01</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	69.44 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price	81.45
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-75.10</u>
	6.35
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-5.95</u>
	-0.40
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

The next adjusted world price and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on July 16.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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USDA, FDA INCREASE COOPERATION ON MUTUAL RESEARCH

WASHINGTON, July 9—Officials of three U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies and the Food and Drug Administration have signed an agreement to jointly pursue research efforts of “mutual interest” such as animal health and human nutrition.

FDA and the USDA agencies—the Agricultural Research Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and National Agricultural Library—will cooperate and share information to facilitate research projects needing mutual support, according to the interagency agreement. It will be effective through September 30, 1990.

All four agencies will make available appropriate scientific expertise, data bases and other resources, as called for in the blanket agreement. A cooperative project in the past was worked out by individual agencies.

A liaison officer has been named by each agency to aid in the planning and scheduling of the projects. Periodic reviews will be held to determine the projects that may require additional mutual support.

Signing the agreement were Sanford Miller, director of FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and the chief officers of the USDA agencies—Terry B. Kinney, Jr., Agricultural Research Service; Bert W. Hawkins, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Joseph H. Howard, National Agricultural Library.

Bruce Schwartz (301) 344-4296

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USDA REPORTS ON WITCHWEED ERADICATION EFFORTS

WASHINGTON, July 10—Efforts to eradicate witchweed from the Carolinas and prevent it from spreading to other states are succeeding, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

Haywood Cox, coordinator of witchweed efforts for USDA’s Animal

and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that since the eradication efforts began in 1974, over 300,000 acres—or about 70 percent of the original infestation—have been cleared of witchweed, a troublesome parasite of corn, sorghum and other grasses. To achieve this success, he said, APHIS officials have relied on surveying land for witchweed, controlling known infestations, and quarantining many of the means of spreading the weed.

In quarantined areas, USDA regulates soil, plants and equipment to prevent the spread of the pest and to assure other states that Carolina products will be free of witchweed contamination.

APHIS has declaring Johnston, Pitt and Beaufort counties in North Carolina free of witchweed. Fifteen other counties in North Carolina and South Carolina have previously eradicated the weed. Areas in eight counties have been added to the quarantine list. Twenty counties in North Carolina and South Carolina are still considered infested with witchweed and under quarantine. This year, a net 14,667 acres were released from quarantine, Cox said.

Witchweed is a slender, red-blossomed plant that attaches itself to the roots of its host, robbing it of nutrients and water. This parasitic drain withers or stunts affected crops and has ruined the agricultural potential of some areas of Africa and Asia. In the United States, witchweed has been confined to small patches in the Carolinas.

The changes to the witchweed regulations are in the July 8 Federal Register. Consideration will be given to comments regarding these changes if they are postmarked on or before Sept. 8. Comments should be addressed to Steven B. Farbman, Assistant Director, Regulatory Coordination, APHIS, USDA, Room 728 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md 20782, and refer to docket number 87-011.

Anita K. Brown (301) 436-6455

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REFERENDUM ON EGG MARKETING ORDER FAILS

WASHINGTON, July 10—A proposed egg marketing order was turned down by fifty-seven percent of the 1,106 producers who voted in a recent referendum, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

“The order would have established a national board appointed by the secretary of agriculture to administer egg research, promotion, and

consumer information activities,” said J. Patrick Boyle, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service. “Had the order been approved, it would have set a non-refundable assessment at 15 cents for each 30-dozen eggs marketed.”

Voting producers not supporting the order produced 47 percent of the volume of eggs produced by all voters.

For the order to have been adopted, two-thirds or more of the voting producers, or voting producers representing at least two-thirds of the volume of eggs produced by all voters, would have had to approve. The mail referendum was held between May 25 and June 19.

The decision to hold the referendum was based on public hearings conducted across the United States between January and March 1986, and on comments received by USDA on a published proposal to establish the egg research and promotion order, Boyle said. The proposed order was authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937.

According to Boyle, the failure of egg producers to approve the proposed order does not invalidate the current Egg Research and Promotion Order authorized by the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act. Under that order, egg producers must pay assessments to the American Egg Board of 5 cents for each 30-dozen eggs marketed. This fee, refundable upon a producer’s demand, is used to finance research and promotion projects.

State-by-state results of the vote may be obtained from the AMS public affairs office, (202) 447-8998.

George Clarke (202) 447-8998

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FIRMS LICENSED TO MAKE AND SELL NEW USDA VACCINE FOR TURKEY DISEASE

WASHINGTON, July 14—Six firms have been issued licenses to make and sell a patented U.S. Department of Agriculture vaccine against a disease that strikes turkeys five to 10 weeks old.

The vaccine is the first to be federally licensed for use against hemorrhagic enteritis, which is caused by a virus that weakens a turkey’s immune system and may kill up to 20 percent of a producer’s young turkeys, said the vaccine’s inventor, Keyvan Nazerian of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

Licensed by the Department of Commerce to make the vaccine and sell it are ARKO Laboratories, Jewell, Iowa; Protatek International Corp., St. Paul, Minn.; Brinton Laboratories, Willmar, Minn.; Central Biologics, Inc., Raleigh, N.C.; Tri-Bio Laboratories, State College, Pa.; and Willmar Poultry, Willmar, Minn.

Damage costs from hemorrhagic enteritis are unknown, said Nazerian, veterinary medical officer at ARS's Regional Poultry Research Laboratory in East Lansing, Mich. Young turkeys have bloody droppings and diarrhea, leading in severe cases to sudden death.

A report from the American Association of Avian Pathologists cited the disease as second to salmonella as the most common intestinal disorder in turkeys in 1986. Intestinal disorders ranked behind respiratory diseases as the most frequent health problem in turkeys last year, the report said.

Nazerian said the new vaccine is safer than currently used vaccines that are made by extracting the virus from the spleens of live turkeys. Those vaccines carry a risk of transmitting other diseases.

"Producers won't have that problem with the new vaccine," he said.

The vaccine is made from a form of the virus that is alive but does not cause disease, he said. When the vaccine is administered—added to turkeys' drinking water—the birds develop antibodies that will fight off disease-causing forms of the virus.

Besides hemorrhagic enteritis, he said, the vaccine may protect turkeys from other diseases that can be brought on by a weakened immune system.

"One disease that can be aggravated by hemorrhagic enteritis is the bacterial disease, collibacillosis. Tests suggest that collibacillosis may be greatly reduced by the new vaccine," Nazerian said.

Linda Cooke (309) 685-4011

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USDA RELEASES DRAFT REPORT ON SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, July 13—The United States will be able to meet food production needs into the next century despite erosion of topsoil that eventually could threaten farmland productivity, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The report, a draft version released today for a 60-day public comment

period, is the second appraisal of the nation's soil and water resources conducted in response to the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977. The Act requires USDA to monitor the status of the soil and water resources on nonfederal lands, and to develop programs mitigating conditions that significantly deplete or damage those resources.

“The value of this report is that it identifies the status and condition of our soil and water resources and gives us an opportunity to develop ways to conserve and protect them,” said George S. Dunlop, USDA assistant secretary for natural resources and environment. “Despite the fact that the report identifies some resource conservation problems, its findings show that the United States can meet food-production demands for the foreseeable future.”

The report includes the effects of erosion on productivity, offsite effects of erosion, salinization of land, condition of rangeland, condition and quality of water supplies, upstream flooding, and projections of future conditions.

The report contains the following findings:

- Sixty-one percent, or about 250 million acres, of nonfederal rangeland remains in less-than-good condition.

- Over 57 million acres of cropland and pastureland are affected by salinity.

- Water shortages of varying intensity are occurring regionally and in localized areas. Severe problems for agriculture could occur by 2030 in the Texas Gulf, Rio Grande, Lower Colorado and Great Basin regions.

- National irrigation efficiencies are estimated to have increased by 6 percent, from 41 percent in 1975 to 47 percent in 1982. Irrigation efficiency refers to the percentage of water withdrawn for irrigation that is actually used by the crop.

- Damage from upstream flooding is increasing. Damage is estimated to be about \$5 billion annually at current levels, and is projected to rise to \$9 billion annually by the year 2030.

- The United States will be able to meet its food production needs through 2030.

Wilson Scaling, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, said the draft report should be considered a tool for developing workable conservation programs. “People concerned about agricultural resource management should take a hard look at this appraisal, and submit their comments to us.”

Scaling said the first appraisal led to the development of the National

Conservation Program implemented in 1982, and was a major source of information used in legislating the conservation provisions of the 1985 farm bill.

Copies of the draft report, "The Second resources Conservation Act Appraisal," are available for review at local SCS and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices.

Dave Moffitt (202) 447-6578

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SOFTWOOD TIMBER LOANS AVAILABLE FROM FARMERS HOME

WASHINGTON, July 13—Farmers Home Administration borrowers who are in financial difficulty may be eligible for assistance under the Department of Agriculture's softwood timber program, according to FmHA Administrator Vance L. Clark.

The program, enacted as part of the 1985 Farm Bill, is available to FmHA borrowers with delinquent farmer program loans and who have at least 50 acres of marginal land that can be switched to softwood timber production, Clark said.

Borrowers with delinquent loans may request reclassification of their loans if they have land that is suitable for the production of softwood timber.

Payments on softwood timber loans may be deferred for up to 45 years or until the timber crop produces revenue. The total amount of loans secured by land transferred to softwood timber production cannot exceed \$1,000 per acre.

"Softwood timber loans may help borrowers develop a positive cash flow, improve their financial condition, repay their outstanding FmHA debts and take marginal land out of agricultural production," Clark said.

Information and applications for softwood timber loans can be obtained from FmHa county, district or state offices.

Joe O'Neil (202) 447-4323

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USDA ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, July 13—Commodity Credit Corporation payments have resumed, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official announced today.

Milton Hertz, executive vice president of USDA's CCC, said resumption of payments has been made possible by President Reagan's signing into law a supplemental appropriation bill on Saturday, July 11 with \$5.5 billion additional funding for CCC. Disbursements had been suspended at the close of business on May 1, 1987, due to a lack of appropriated funds.

Hertz said that payments have resumed for all CCC activities, including commodity loans and purchases, warehouse and producer storage payments, deficiency and diversion payments, dairy price support purchases, dairy termination program payments and conservation reserve cost-share payments.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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USDA ANNOUNCES WEEKLY CATTLE SLAUGHTER, MEAT PURCHASES AND EXPORTS OF CATTLE UNDER THE DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, July 16—An estimated 6,100 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending June 27 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

This total includes all cows, heifers and calves identified as dairy animals designated for disposition in compliance with the program requirements.

The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1, 1986 through June 27, 1987 is an estimated 1,128,800 head.

The purchases of meat in addition to normal purchases are to help offset the effects of the DTP on the domestic meat market. Cumulative purchases through July 11 total 402,602,645 pounds.

Dairy cattle reported for export under the program for the period April 1, 1986 through July 11, 1987 totaled an estimated 59,341 head. Live cattle exports are in addition to meat purchase requirements.

Cattle Slaughtered, Meat Purchased and Cattle Exported under the Dairy Termination Program¹

Period Ending		Cattle Slaughtered (Number)	Planned Meat Purchases (Pounds)	Meat Purchased (Pounds)	Cattle Reported for Export (Number)
(1986)					
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Nov.	29	45,700		21,564,346	5,371
Dec.	26	43,000		27,399,960	3,474
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Jan.	30	49,600		29,239,980	3,355
Feb.	27	39,800		159,984	2,225
March	27	35,900		359,964	1,487
April	24	25,300		359,843	1,090
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	20	6,700		1,232,000	410
	27	6,100		3,318,480	126
July	4			6,992,000	89
	11			7,717,000	79
	18				
	25				
Total		1,128,800	347,600,000 ³	402,602,645	59,341

¹Includes all cows, heifers and calves under the DTP.

²Estimated for April 1 - April 26.

³Thru July 31.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

